

# Documents on Diplomacy: Resources

## Timeline of the Berlin Wall & Change in Europe

- 1945** The Soviet Union captures Berlin and the city is divided into four occupied sectors: Russian, American, British, and French. The eastern sector is occupied by Russia; the remaining Allies occupy the western sectors. This leads to the division of Berlin (located in the Russian sector) into two cities: East and West Berlin.
- 1949** The Soviets blockade West Berlin. The Allies conduct the Berlin Airlift to feed the city.
- 1949** Two countries are created—the Democratic Republic of Germany (East) and the Federal Republic of Germany (West.)
- 1961** The border between East and West Berlin is closed. Barbed wire and fencing are erected with more elaborate concrete walls, watchtowers, and fortified areas evolving over the years.
- 1963** John F. Kennedy's "ich bin ein Berliner" speech in West Berlin,
- 1971** Four-Power Agreement on Berlin reduced travel restrictions from West Germany to West Berlin. Also created opening of trade and diplomacy between East and West Germany.
- 1974–76** Additional construction of a wall deeper inside East Germany.
- 1980** Rise of Solidarity Movement in Poland, a challenge to Communist domination.
- 1987** Ronald Reagan delivers his speech at the Berlin Wall.
- 1989** Government of Hungary opens its border with Austria, allowing thousands of East Germans to escape through Austria.
- Hungary reopens its border with East Germany.
  - The East German leader is forced to resign.
  - One million people attend a pro-democracy rally in East Berlin.
  - The Berlin Wall falls.
  - "Velvet Revolution" occurs in Czechoslovakia and Communist government resigns.
  - Romanian dictator resigns.
- 1990** Hungary elects a non-communist government
- East and West Germany become ONE country.
  - Poland elects Lech Walesa president.
  - Baltic countries gain independence from the Soviet Union.
  - The devolution of the Soviet Union

*The end of the Cold War?*